

The Gainesville Iguana

July/August 2012
Vol. 26, Issue 7/8

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Health Law Upheld, But Health Needs Still Unmet

By Physicians for a National Health Program

The following statement was released on June 28 by leaders of Physicians for a National Health Program (www.pnhp.org).

Although the Supreme Court has

upheld the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the unfortunate reality is that the law, despite its modest benefits, is not a remedy to our health care crisis: (1) it will not achieve universal coverage, as it leaves at least 26 million uninsured, (2) it will not make health care affordable to Americans with in-

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More Than Just Election Day

By Joe Courter

There's Election Day, when all should cast an informed vote, and then there is the Process and all the varied ways one can participate in the build-up to the day(s) when votes are cast.

Those who don't vote because of their disappointment in the national races hurt all those local candidates whose term in office will affect you directly and for whom your vote is significantly more powerful. Like I said last month, people died for their right to vote; it is not too much to ask for you to participate.

See **ELECTIONS** p. 4



Cartoon by Jeff Parker. This cartoon was originally published by Florida Today on July 1. To see more cartoons from Florida Today, visit www.floridatoday.com.

HEALTH CARE from p. 1

insurance, because of high co-pays and gaps in coverage that leave patients vulnerable to financial ruin in the event of serious illness, and (3) it will not control costs.

Why is this so? Because the ACA perpetuates a dominant role for the private insurance industry. Each year, that industry siphons off hundreds of billions of health care dollars for overhead, profit and the paperwork it demands from doctors and hospitals; it denies care in order to increase insurers' bottom line; and it obstructs any serious effort to control costs.

In contrast, a single-payer, improved-Medicare-for-all system would provide truly universal, comprehensive coverage; health security for our patients and their families; and cost control. It would do so by replacing private insurers with a single, non-profit agency like Medicare that pays all medical bills, streamlines administration, and reins in costs for medications and other supplies through its bargaining clout.

Research shows the savings in administrative costs alone under a single-payer plan would amount to \$400 billion annually, enough to provide quality coverage to everyone with no overall increase in U.S. health spending.

The major provisions of the ACA do not go into effect until 2014. Although

we will be counseled to "wait and see" how this reform plays out, we've seen how comparable plans have worked in Massachusetts and other states. Those "reforms" have invariably failed our patients, foundering on the shoals of skyrocketing costs, even as the private insurers have continued to amass vast fortunes.

Our patients, our people and our national economy cannot wait any longer for an effective remedy to our health care woes. The stakes are too high.

Contrary to the claims of those who say we are "unrealistic," a single-payer system is within practical reach. The most rapid way to achieve universal coverage would be to improve upon the existing Medicare program and expand it to cover people of all ages. There is legislation before Congress, notably H.R. 676, the "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act," which would do precisely that.

What is truly unrealistic is believing that we can provide universal and affordable health care in a system dominated by private insurers and Big

Pharma.

The American people desperately need a universal health system that delivers comprehensive, equitable, compassionate and high-quality care, with free choice of provider and no financial barriers to access. Polls have repeatedly shown an improved Medicare for all, which meets these criteria, is the remedy preferred by two-thirds of the population. A solid majority of the medical profession now favors such an approach, as well.

We pledge to step up our work for the only equitable, financially responsible and humane cure for our health care ills: single-payer national health insurance, an expanded and improved Medicare for all. 🐾

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From the publisher ...

Weeding Through the B.S.

By Joe Courter

Publishing a small news magazine in this age of information overload has its pluses and minuses. There is a lot to write about and report on, but sheesh, there sure is a lot to choose from. Do you write about things coming up, or things that have already happened? From an activist orientation, the Iguana wants to present information to inform and inspire, to try and convey that the struggle for a better world is long and slow, with bursts of hope that, when proved fleeting, should not be seen as defeat but as part of the process of change.



A good friend last week expressed to me that she wished the Iguana was bigger or came out more often, 'cause it is one media source she trusts. Well, as this publication is run both on volunteer time and on a shoestring budget, that is unlikely. So it is up to everyone, via libraries, selective use of the media, or their computer to get out and dig up meaningful stuff, and not settle for the mainstream BS that passes for news now.

Beyond that, there is also an ethic of solidarity, the common struggle. We see resistance to austerity measures around the world, a collective "NO!" to the demands of sacrifice that the rich and powerful impose on, very often, the ones with the least, but also on the compliant. Because they can. For now.

Elections can be maddening, as the hopeful progressive people of Egypt and

Wisconsin, and now Mexico, have recently learned. The power structure has a deep foundation, and being well organized and well funded are tough assets to overcome.

The power of money in this nation's elections has reached an astounding and dangerous level, and, when coupled with the scientific focus groups crafting sound bite messaging in the media, this development is profoundly disturbing. Short comments by John Boener or Mitch McConnell are played and repeated without analysis, which facilitate their announced plan to make the Obama administration a failure, to make him a one-term president. Locally the big money will play out in attack ads and vilification, and get ready for all the robocalls. And all those big signs.

The primary voting will take place August 14, with early voting beginning August 4. The last day to register to vote in this election is July 16.

Something you will be seeing more of in the future is Viva 500. No it is not a race at Daytona Speedway; it is the state-sponsored celebration of Spanish Conquistador

Ponce De Leon arriving quite briefly on the Florida coast in 1513, with his main claim to fame being the name he gave to the land he found for the flowers he saw in bloom - "La Florida."

There will be much ado about this man, whose history is full of conquering and enslavement. But hopefully the Iguana will do its part to uphold the story of the native people who were already here and how the Spanish invasions impacted their lives. It's the Columbus Quincentenary, Part Two. 🐢

Subscribe!

The Gainesville Iguana is Gainesville's progressive events calendar & newsletter.

Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

Low/No income: What you can

Groups: \$20

Iguana, c/o CISPLA

P.O. Box 14712

Gainesville, FL 32604

Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at: (352) 378-5655

GainesvilleIguana@cox.net

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ELECTIONS from p. 1

So on the big scale, where are we? On Nov. 6 there will be a Democrat and a Republican. We know them. There will be the Green party and the Libertarian Party, both small, principled and, as usual, ignored by the media. The proposed other third party effort - one Dem and one Repub in an online-determined primary ballot called "America Elects" - quietly collapsed in mid-May. That kind of killed the idea of a major third voice getting into the D&R party-controlled debates.

What we will have is a pretty sharp contrast between the disappointing but eloquent Obama and the less articulate and tied to a hard right party Romney. And a tsunami of right-wing money unleashed by Citizens United muddying the discussion to a point of potential disgust for most sane people.

It will be a long 18 weeks from press time in July to the vote. Money and

greed have us in a bad mess. Military Madness has the world hating us.

Locally we have City and County governments hamstrung from Tallahassee budget cuts, trying to deal with the shortfall amid much squealing about paying taxes to make up for it by the Republicans (whose own party did all the cutting in Tallahassee in the first place). Add to that the poisoned political climate fostered by hate radio and the corporate media, which focuses on the simplistic and sensational.

We are in trouble as a nation. But, please, put the gloom aside, and let's try to keep our progressive little city rolling along with a sensible County Commission and School Board. There's voting to be done on Aug. 14.

That Aug. 14 primary will arrive soon, with early voting in the two weeks before.

Here's a quick rundown on Alachua County now that the candidate-filing

period has ended. Candidate background and contact info can be found on the Supervisor of Elections website, elections.alachua.fl.us.

County Commission, District One: Mike Byerly has a Democratic opponent, Roberta

Lopez. She's good, but Mike is the best Commissioner we have. He has three Repubs wanting to run against him in what will be a pretty rough primary election, though they will probably all trash Mike more than beat each other up. Mike is grassroots, and he could use help against the mountain of money and meanness he'll face in the fall.

County Commission, District Three: Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson can raise funds and will run a creative campaign and be a great commissioner if elected to the position he served well in previously. He faces Democrat Ken Cornell, a strong newcomer who will have a lot of conservative money backing him in the primary,

"I've been an educator and environmental advocate in our community for over thirty years. I've been a consistent voice for our progressive values here, and I'll be a strong voice for those values in Tallahassee."



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trying to make Hutch face, in effect, two strong campaigns. That money will probably desert him and back the Republican who awaits Hutch (or Ken) in the fall, Jean Calderwood, who has no primary opponent. Another really rough race for November.

County Commission, District Five: Though not on the August ballot, this race is worth a mention. Democrat and really good guy Chuck Chestnut will face an extremely well-funded opponent in the November election, Dean Cheshire, who has signs all over town already. When you see those signs, just put a line down the "S" and make it a "\$"... mentally of course. Chuck has been a City Commissioner and a Representative in Tallahassee, and we need his perspective on the Commission.

School Board, District Four: We encourage strong support for newcomer Leanetta McNealy to unseat Barbara Sharpe. This three-way race, open to all voters, also has Tea Party-backed Jodi Wood on the ballot. The winner will need 50 percent plus one to win outright; otherwise a run-off election will occur for the top two in November. The Iguana had supported Sharpe before, but she cozied up to the conservatives on the Board as soon as she got there. McNealy has Iguana support as well as the Labor Party and the Democratic Party, but getting past 50 percent will be hard.

Popular School Board member Eileen Roy is re-elected with no opposition this time around; if you are a fan of Eileen, get with Leanetta!

There will be other regional races, but we will just talk about one more. In the newly created District 20 for State Senate, Marihelen Wheeler will

face Clovis Watson in the Democratic primary, with the winner facing only a write-in candidate in November. No Republican is running. Watson is a former City Manager and Police

Chief in the City of Alachua, and he was a principle actor in the shady politics and the harassment of citizen activist Charlie Grapski in that city a couple years ago. He fell under the spell of Republican operatives during this time, and prominently published an angry renunciation of the Democratic Party and expressed his

newfound Republicanism. Watson now plaintively says he regrets this period, but to send a person with this record to the snake pit of Tallahassee seems like a really bad idea. Wheeler is a career educator with experience going to Tallahassee to fight for school funding. The Iguana

See **ELECTIONS** p. 6



HUTCH
Robert Hutchinson
for County Commission

The Alachua County Commission interprets our community's priorities for social services, public safety, growth management, economic development, environmental protection, and transportation. Hutch is an experienced leader with deep roots in our community. His progressive and science-based decision-making is needed now more than ever.

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ELECTIONS from p. 5

solidly supports her in what is going to be a tough race, especially for as nice a person as she is. District 20 is a sprawling, somewhat redrawn district that was Chuck Chestnut's District 23.

Being a candidate is hard work. They need your support, so do what you can.

The last day to register to vote for the August 14 primaries will be July 16. You can also change your party affiliation before July 16, as those registered Independent, Green or whatever do not get a voice in some important Democratic Party races. 🐸

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Iguana Alachua County Voter Guide for Aug. 14 Election

Republican... You're on your own

Non-Democrat... You only get School Board

Democrat...

U.S. Senate - Nelson
School Board, District 4 - McNealy
State House, District 20 - Wheeler
State House, District 21 - Bosshardt
Property Appraiser - Crapo
County Commission, District 1 - Byerly
County Commission, District 3 - Hutchinson

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**Re-elect Ed Crapo
Property Appraiser
Vote August 14**

Gainesville to March with Thousands on Republican National Convention in Tampa

By Diana Moreno, Alachua County Labor Party Coordinator

This article originally appeared in the Alachua County Labor Party newsletter. See more at www.floridalabor-party.org/alachua.

On June 16, close to 50 organizers from Illinois, Minnesota and Florida met at the University of South Florida with a common goal: to organize a march in protest of the upcoming Republican National Convention in Tampa.

The organizers ranged in ages and organizations. Activists from Occupy Tampa, along with members from Veterans for Peace, the National Organization for Women, and three different chapters of Students for a Democratic Society (Tampa, Minneapolis and our own Gainesville branch) were in attendance. The day-long conference was organized by the Coalition to March on the RNC, a group that seeks to form a nation-wide coalition to march in opposition to, as their website puts it, “the endless attacks on the rights of working people and our standard of living.”

The conference opened with a presentation about what the Coalition stands for: Good jobs, healthcare, affordable education, equality and peace. These five demands are broad not only because the Coalition seeks to bring a diverse group of organizers down to Tampa, but they are also meant to encompass the top priorities and needs of working people, vastly different from the priorities of the Republican establishment that will descend in Tampa on Aug. 27.

The attendees had the opportunity to hear from activists who participated in the 2008 march on the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, as well as organizers from the recent NATO Summit protests in Chicago. Their experience with grassroots building as well as police intimidation gave the group a realistic outlook on what they could expect as they prepare for and participate in the march.

The news of heavy police presence and lack of cooperation from the City of Tampa in giving the protesters proper permits to demonstrate peacefully have been as challenging as they are shocking. The City has received an estimated \$50 million from Congress to install security cameras and militarize its police force.

On July 2, the Coalition to March on the RNC will hold a national call-in day to the City of Tampa demanding the right to march within sight and sound of the Convention on Aug. 27. Then on July 27, one month before the big march, coalition partners will hold demonstrations, pickets and protests outside of their local Republican Party headquarters or corporate sponsors of the Convention.

Gainesville activists will participate in both actions.

If you're interested in learning more or want to participate in the Gainesville Committee to March on the RNC, please contact marchonthernc@gmail.com or visit: www.MarchontheRNC.com. 🐾

Know Your Rights!
2012 RNC in Tampa: What You Need To Know
Tuesday, July 10, 7p.m. to 8:30p.m.
FREE!

The ACLU will host this free, online webinar for organizers and activists planning to attend the RNC in Tampa Aug. 27-30. To register, visit <https://www.aclu.org/secure/webinar-registration-rnc-tampa-what-you-need-know-0>



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Across That Bridge, Again

By Amy Goodman

This article was originally published at Nation of Change on June 14 at www.nationofchange.org/.

As the election season heats up, an increasing number of states are working to limit the number of people who are allowed to vote. Already we have a shamefully low percentage of those eligible to vote actually participating. Florida, a key swing state, is preparing for the Republican National Convention, five days of pomp promoted as a celebration of democracy. While throwing this party, Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott, along with his secretary of state, Ken Detzner, are systematically throwing people off the voter rolls, based on flawed, outdated Florida state databases.

Many eligible Florida voters recently received a letter saying they were removed and had limited time to prove their citizenship. Hundreds of cases emerged where people with long-standing U.S. citizenship were being purged. According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, "of those singled out to prove their citizenship, 61 percent are Hispanic when only 14 percent of registered Florida voters are Hispanic," suggesting an attempt to purge Latinos, who tend to vote Democratic. Recall the year 2000, when then-Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris systematically purged African-Americans from voter rolls. The U.S. Justice Department has ordered Detzner to stop the purge, but he and Gov. Scott promise to continue. The Justice Department has sued the state in federal court, as have the ACLU and other groups...

Back in 1961, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, just 21 years old, was a leader of the Freedom Rides, testing new federal laws banning segregation in interstate travel. He and many others were severely beaten when their buses crossed state lines into the Deep South. He sat down at segregated lunch counters, and joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, soon rising to chair the organization. He told me about a pivotal moment in his life, and this nation's history, the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge:

"On March 7, 1965, a group of us tried to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize to the nation that people wanted to vote. One young African-American man had been shot and killed a few days earlier, in an adjoining county, called Perry County. Because of what happened to him we made a decision to march. In Selma, Alabama, in 1965, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. The only place you could attempt to register was to go down to the courthouse, you had to pass a so-called literacy test."

As Lewis and scores of others tried to cross the Pettus Bridge in Selma, at the beginning of their 50-mile march to Montgomery, Lewis recalled, "we got to the top of the bridge, we saw a sea of blue, Alabama state troopers, and we continued to walk, we came within hearing distance of the state troopers. One said, 'I'm Major John Cloud of the Alabama State Troopers, this is an unlawful march, it will not be allowed to continue, I give you three minutes to disperse, return to your church.' ... You saw these guys putting on their gas masks, they came toward us beating us with nightsticks and bullwhips and

trampling us with horses. I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick. I had a concussion at the bridge. My legs went out from under me. I felt like I was going to die. I thought I saw death."

When I asked Lewis what propelled him forward in the face of such violence, he said, "My mother, my father, my grandparents, my uncle and aunts, people all around me had never registered to vote." Universal suffrage, the right to vote, is never safe, never secure, never complete. This election season will be one where money from a few will have enormous influence, while the votes of many are being eliminated, their voices effectively silenced.

Unless people fight to dramatically expand voter participation, not just prevent the purges, our democracy is in serious danger. 🐸



WGOT 94.7 LP FM

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WGOT is on the air:

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon, Wed, Fri: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 5 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Check out wgot.org for upcoming events and a detailed schedule.

WGOT-LP is now streaming using Shoutcast. We are currently only streaming during our on-air schedule but are considering coming up with an off-air schedule to extend our reach. You can find the WGOT stream under the Shoutcast directory. To listen from your iOS, Android, or Blackberry mobile device, you can use any radio streaming apps such

as Tune In. We are now listed in iTunes Radio under the Eclectic category. Direct feed at www.wgot.org/listen/. 94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car. Questions? Comments? E-mail us at info@wgot.org.

Democracy NOW! airs
Mon.-Fri. 1p.m. & Mon.-Thur. 8p.m.



Civic Media Center Events - July/August

Every Thursday: Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Poetry Jam, 9 p.m.

Monday, 7/9: "Bahrain: Shouting in the Dark" documentary film, 7pm

Tuesday, 7/10: Gainesville ISO presents "The Stonewall Uprising" documentary film, 8pm

Wednesday, 7/11: Queer Reading Group, 7pm

Friday, 7/13: Auditions for "The Silent Room," a play about workers, 6pm

Saturday, 7/14: The North Florida Woody Guthrie Centennial Celebration, the songs and words of Guthrie performed by Florida artists, 8pm

Sunday, 7/15: Crew Call for "The Silent Room" a play about workers, 3pm

Monday, 7/16: Food Not Bombs: Dinner and a Movie featuring the documentary film "Civil Indigent," 7pm

Wednesday, 7/18: Anarchademics radical theory reading and discussion group, 7pm

Friday, 7/20: Music with James Lance and The Bill Perry Orchestra, 9pm

Saturday, 7/21: Co-op Summer Survival Fest at the Repurpose Project, 4 to 11pm

Sunday, 7/22: Zine Workday, 3 to 6pm

Monday, 7/23: Citizen's Co-op presents "Food Fight" documentary film, 7pm

Friday, 7/27: ArtWalk featuring local artist Alma Elaine Shoaf, 7pm to 10pm

Saturday, 7/28: Munchkin!, a family-friendly curious card game, 3pm to 6pm
Oral History Archives Event, 7pm

Monday, 7/30: Gainesville IWW presents "Woody Guthrie: This Machine Kills Facists" documentary film, 7pm

Tuesday, 7/31: "Koch Brothers Exposed," 2 showings at 7pm and 8:30pm

Monday, 8/6: "White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" documentary in memory of the 67th anniversary, 7pm
Queer Reading Group, 7pm

Tuesday, 8/8: Alachua County Rapsallions present "4x4x4" a 24-hour theater project, show time at 8pm

Monday, 8/13: Food Not Bombs: Dinner and a Movie, 7pm

Wednesday, 8/15: Anarchademics radical theory reading and discussion group, 7pm

Monday, 8/20: "Better this World" documentary film, 7pm

Tuesday, 8/21: IWW Labor Film Series, 7pm

Friday, 8/24: David Rovics

Monday, 8/27: "Too Big to Fail" documentary film, 7pm

Friday, 8/31: ArtWalk, 7- 10pm

433 S. Main Street

Parking just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign) or after 7 p.m. at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave.) or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC)

Check our website for details or events scheduled after this went to press

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Iguana Directory

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Art Lab is a group for artists who are continually expanding their skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from various backgrounds encompassing a wide range of mediums from forged iron to spun wool to graphic design. We hold technique workshops, artist talks and critiques, professional practices meetings and critical thinking discussions. GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com. <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

Alachua County Labor Party meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Annual memberships are \$20/year. Please contact us to join or for the most updated info: FloridaLaborParty.org, ACLPL@FloridaLaborParty.org, 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave, Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

American Civil Liberties Union Currently no local chapter. For info on forming new chapter, or ACLU info, contact Jax office 904-353-7600 or bstandy@aclufl.org

Amnesty International UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; www.facebook.com/ufamnesty or UFAmnesty@gmail.com.

Bridges Across Borders Florida-based international collaboration of activists, artists, students and educators supporting cultural diversity and global peace. office@bridgesacrossborders.org, 352-485-2594,

Citizens Climate Lobby (Gainesville Chapter) provides education and activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, usually at the downtown library's Foundation Room. 352-672-4327, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, cclgainesville@gmail.com

Civic Media Center Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, www.civicmedia-center.org.

The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS) Student-run group at UF. www.chispasuf.org

Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW! Search for Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW on Facebook. www.endthemeallimit-now.org

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. CodePink4Peace.org, jacquebetz@gmail.com

Committee for a Civilian Police Review Board Group that demands the creation of a citizens' police review board to fight against the pattern of corruption, arrogance, bias and violence displayed by some members of the Gainesville Police Department. gvillepolicereview@gmail.com

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. Non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-466-1178, Conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7: p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, AlachuaCountyDemocraticParty.org

Edible Plant Project Local collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. 561-236-2262 www.EdiblePlantProject.org.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums Work to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614, gnewburn@fammm.org. 352-682-2542

The Fine Print An independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting specifically for Gainesville's students. www.thefineprintuf.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 www.midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment An organization dedicated to restoring the Ocklawaha and preserving Florida's other natural resources. 352-378-8465 FlaDefenders.org

Gainesville Books for Prisoners is a D.I.Y. prisoner support group. We are an all-volunteer, not-for-profit collective that maintains a small library, housed in the back of Wayward Council, to match books with requests from incarcerated persons in Florida. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillebooksforprisoners@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/219545091407216/

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty concerned people in the Gainesville area who are working to abolish the death penalty in Florida. Participate in vigils when Florida has an execution. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center (1738 W. University Ave.) 352-332-1350, www.fadp.org.

Gainesville Food Not Bombs is the local chapter of a loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals, made from local surplus, with all who are hungry. Meals are at 3 p.m. every Saturday at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ) meets biweekly to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy and action. gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com or www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville Women's Liberation The first women's liberation group in the South, formed in 1968, the organization is now part of National Women's Liberation. WomensLiberation.org

Graduate Assistants United Union that represents all UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366, officers@ufgau.org, www.ufgau.org

Green Party Part of worldwide movement built out of four different interre-

lated social pillars, which support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. www.GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

Grow Radio Non-profit company that will provide the opportunity for community members to create and manage unique, engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of, but not limited to, the Gainesville community. growradio.org.

Harvest of Hope Foundation Non-profit organization that provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. www.harvestofhope.net or email: kellerhope@cox.net.

Home Van A mobile soup kitchen that goes out to homeless areas twice a week with food and other necessities of life, delivering about 400 meals per week; operated by Citizens for Social Justice. barupa@atlantic.net or 352-372-4825.

Industrial Workers of the World Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 7 p.m.. Gainesvilleiww@riseup.net. www.gainesvilleiww.org

Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice Organizing faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 p.m. at La Casita 1504 W. University Ave. (across from Library) GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-215-4255 or 352-377-6577

International Socialist Organization Organization committed to building a left alternative to a world of war, racism and poverty. Meetings are every Thurs. at the UF classroom building at 105 NW 16th St. at 7 p.m.. gainesvilleiso@gmail.com

Kindred Sisters Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. KindredSisters@gmail.com, www.kindredsisters.org.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Special training and certification is provided. Interested individuals should call toll-free (888) 831-0404 or visit the program's Web site at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

MindFreedom North Florida Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600. ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org.

National Lawyers Guild Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

National Organization for Women Gainesville Area www.gainesvillenow.org. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912. NOW information, contact Laura Bresko 352-332-2528.

Planned Parenthood Clinic Full-service medical clinic for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Now offering free HIV and free pregnancy testing daily from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.. Located at 914 NW 13th Street.

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4 p.m.. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org.

Protect Gainesville Citizens Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org.

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides innovative ways to resolve conflict in Gainesville and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. www.centerforpeacebuilding.org. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

Queer Activist Coalition Politically motivated activist group at UF fighting for full civil and social equality for the LGBTQ community. queeractivistcoalition@gmail.com.

Sierra Club Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the UF Entomology & Nematology Building, Room 1035. 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville. Links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). For more information, see: <http://www.gn-vsistercities.org>.

Student/Farmworker Alliance A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. More info on Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

Students for a Democratic Society Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in our schools and communities. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall 32 on the UF campus.

UF Pride Student Union Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride.

United Faculty of Florida Union represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, president@uff-uf.org, www.UFF-UF.org.

The United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter. Our purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the United Nations efforts to deal with those issues. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

Veterans for Peace Anti-war organization that works to raise awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as to seek alternatives that are peaceful and effective. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.. 352-375-2563, www.afn.org/~vetpeace/.

Wayward Council is a not-for-profit, volunteer- and collectively run record store, all-ages show space, infoshop, and community center. Volunteer meetings are every Sunday at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. 807 W. University Ave. 352-335-0800. waywardcouncil@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/#!/groups/55568725618/

WGOT 94.7 LP-FM Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. wgot947@gmail.com, www.wgot.org.



What happened to the American Dream of a college education and home ownership?

- Anonymous Iguana Reader

This is the second part of a three-part series. In this installment, Mr. Econ tackles home ownership. Ask Mr. Econ asks readers to submit their tough questions about the economy and financial systems to gainesvilleiguana@cox.net.

Income versus Housing Prices

Home ownership was viewed as critical to America and its communities because it provided a stable place to live and raise a family, thereby producing stable communities.

However, in 2010, the median price of a home rose to \$241,200. The jump in

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housing prices was more than double the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. And the price of a home compared to household income now stood at about 5 times the median annual household income.

The Banking and Home Mortgage System

What happened in the early 1980s is that banking regulations were not enforced. Local savings and loan institutions provide the majority of loans in the housing sector. However, seeing greater returns in speculative real estate, banks figured out ways to get around regulations requiring them to lend locally and limiting what types of products they could provide customers. Many banks began lending to markets they had no knowledge of and invented new products to make the funds in savings accounts more liquid.

Savings accounts were meant to be more stable than checking accounts and give banks the capital they needed to make loans, especially long-term loans like home mortgages. Technically, deposits in savings accounts could not be withdrawn without a 30-day notice to the bank. To get around this regulation, banks invented "NOW" accounts - Negotiable Orders of Withdrawal. In effect, savings accounts became no different than checking accounts, thus depriving the home lending market of a stable source of long-term capital. Savings banks/savings and loan associations found a loophole so that they could either become commercial banks or merge with commercial banks and expand what they did with the money depositors entrusted to them.

No longer did the U.S. banking system have institutions that were totally focused on home mortgage lending. Not only that, but many savings and loans associations, as a result of their greed, made questionable loans outside of their original markets that proved to be worthless. The resulting collapse in the 1980s became known as the S&L Crisis.

Inflation measured by the CPI was above 10 percent in the late '70s and early '80s. Housing markets in many areas led the inflationary trend with housing prices in places like New York City, Boston, California, Phoenix and Washington, D.C. rising far faster than any other commodity. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported housing costs rising about twice as fast as general consumer prices during this period.

The upper classes, whose incomes were rising and whose existing homes were increasing in value, had the luxury of selling their homes for huge profits and purchasing ever larger houses, even second and third homes. A speculative bubble in housing began, and housing began to be looked at as not just a place to live but also as an opportunity to make money.

Traditional commercial banks also began to look at the housing market as an avenue for profit. The 1980s saw an explosion of bank mergers and takeovers, and local community banks disappeared for the most part. And just like the regulations governing savings institutions were ignored a decade earlier, regulations governing commercial banks became totally non-existent.

The critical regulations at issue were those set up as part of the Glass-Steagall Act, a law set up to protect consumers in response to the Great Depression. Glass-Steagall split commercial banks and made loans mostly to individuals and small businesses in their local communities. Investment banks financed large businesses that produced basic goods and services for the economy, and made loans that were far more risky, but in many cases these loans offered the lure of greater returns. Investment banks were not supposed to offer retail or commercial banking services.

Commercial banks, seeing the greater returns generated by investment banks, began underwriting the capital needs of large corporations and governments. Investment banks, seeing the retail customer as a source of cash, began offering "brokerage accounts" that looked

very much like a typical checking account. But there was a major difference.

Whereas the commercial bank had a legal responsibility to invest the money of depositors in safe financial instruments like government bonds and home mortgage loans, the investment banks were not constrained by these regulations. Funds deposited in a brokerage account could and often would be invested in exotic things like derivatives, or thin air, in other words.

In 1999, the Glass-Steagall Act was abolished, releasing the banks from virtually any oversight. Not only were commercial banks officially allowed to do what investment banks were supposed to do and vice versa, but the two types of banks could also merge. Hence, one of the largest investment banks, J.P. Morgan, merged with one of the largest commercial banks, the Chase Manhattan Bank, and a new round of mergers and acquisitions began.

Home mortgage lending was not a profitable business for the newly expanded banks. Banks and mortgage companies saw the originating of home loans as profitable due to the fees they could charge to borrowers, and in some cases they could also charge the sellers of

homes. But having money tied up for as long as 30 years in a global economy, where millions of transactions are taking place every second, didn't seem like a good deal. As a result, the banks invented a new product called a mortgage-backed security and got the U.S. government, through Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac, to insure them. This allowed the banks to make the mortgage loans, earn the fees and then sell the loans to someone else for an additional profit. The rest is history. In their drive to make money, banks and mortgage lenders made loans to people who could not afford to pay them. Further, the loans were often made for houses that were worth less than the loans. And new, creative types of mortgage products were developed that made it easier for people to qualify for loans.

Then the storm hit, and the bubble burst. People lost jobs at the same time balloon payments were coming due or interest rates were being adjusted on these new mortgage products. As the first wave of home buyers defaulted on their loans, housing prices dropped. In other words, a

massive downward spiral began spinning out of control. As a result of the housing bubble burst, tougher lending policies were instituted, the major ones requiring a 20 percent down payment and proof of income to support the loan for the long-term. Given the decreasing wages of the middle class and the decreased buying power of those wages since 1970, these more stringent lending requirements excluded many middle class families from the dream of owning a home.

Equity in one's home eroded for two major reasons. The first is the decrease in housing prices and values, and the second might be the homeowner borrowing against the equity that had been built up in the home. Again, a situation where the borrower is underwater. All of these factors in the housing market, along with the general factors in the economy laid out above, have combined to deprive the middle class from being able to purchase a home. 🐶

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JULY
6 **All American Song Fest:** Songs about America Past to Present
13 **Uncle Morty's Rhythm Cream:** R&B/Pop/Rock
20 **Morningbell:** Psychedelic Rock
27 **3rd Stone:** Rock/Afro-beat/Reggae

AUGUST
3 **An Triúr:** Irish Traditional
10 **Heavy Petty:** Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers Tribute Band
17 **Monica Leadon Cooper & the Y'all Stars:** Country Rock/
Acoustic
24 **Other Voices:** Pop/Folk/Blues/Jazz
31 **DBLWide:** Rockabilly

CITY OF **GAINESVILLE** Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
every path starts with passion FLORIDA 352-334-5067 www.gviculturalaffairs.org
All shows may be subject to change.

North Florida Woody Guthrie Centennial Celebration

By Joe Courter

A variation of this article appeared in the summer Media Notes, newsletter of the Civic Media Center.

Years ago when the Civic Media Center was just getting started, one of the performers came up to me after packing her guitar away and thanked the CMC for including music as part of media. There can be no better example in the 20th century of this than the "hard ramblin', hard travellin'" Woody Guthrie. In a time when there needed to be a voice of the people, this Oklahoma native traveled and sang out for the common man, against the forces of greed, and at times simply for the joy of being alive.

The North Florida Woody Guthrie Centennial Celebration will be Saturday, July 14, starting at 8p.m. on the lawn of the Repurpose Project (519 S. Main St.), just south of the CMC and Citizen's Co-op.

This gig did some wandering of its own, originally announced for Boca Fiesta, then at the Warehouse Lounge, until finally landing at a place Woody would have loved. These changes are not a negative on the other locations, but in planning and considering

various aspects of the day, it took some, well, rethinking.

The CMC has some ties to Woody Guthrie, if indirect, through Stetson Kennedy, Florida's (no longer) Living Legend, whose personal library was donated to and populates the CMC's shelves, and whose home outside of Jacksonville was a frequent visiting spot for Woody in his travels.

July 14, 1912 was the birth of Woody Guthrie, a man for whom the times drew forth his talents, and the circumstance of the new medium of radio spread his voice around the country at a time it really needed it.

What we are asking is that the array of local talent take some of Woody's songs and words and make them their own for the day, short sets from a lot of Gainesville talent, of mostly Woody with some additional Woodyesque selections. The list at press time includes a variety of Gainesville performers, and we are grateful to all who will donate their artistry.

Thanks to the Library of Congress, and their new fangled recording equipment, as well as his prolific writing archived by others, there's a lot of Woody out there. Yet, just last week at a volunteer meeting at the CMC, a new volunteer asked, "Who is Woody Guthrie?"

The event will benefit both the CMC and Harvest of Hope, a direct aide migrant farmworker organization. Tickets are reasonable at \$5 to \$10, sliding scale. There will be food and drink, raffles, art, and hopefully a whole cross section of the good progressive folks of Gainesville to celebrate the birth of this legendary force for good in the world one hundred years ago. 🐸

The Civic Media Center and Harvest of Hope present

Woody Guthrie Centennial Show

at The Repurpose Project
519 S. Main St., Gainesville

Woody Guthrie, born July 14, 1912, blazed a unique trail in folk music, the voice of the common man in uncommon times; the depression and the beginning of radio; which brought his voice to folks around the country.

The songs and words of Woody Guthrie performed by a variety of performers, short sets, mostly acoustic.

Performing:
Russ Van Cleave,
The Ones To Blame,
Company Man, Jon Gaunt, Devon Stuart, Kathleen Taylor, Kathleen Kennedy, Toby Terrell, Mama Trish, Cathy Dewitt and many more!

Doors open at 8pm

\$5 - 10 sliding scale
Tickets available at the CMC and Wild Iris Books



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Woody's Birthday Party: 50 Years Ago

By Arupa Freeman

I found out about Woody Guthrie in the early sixties when I moved to Norman, Okla., to go to college. Someone invited me to an annual event in Norman, Woody Guthrie's birthday party. I don't know who organized it or how many years it had been going on, but it was an established tradition. It was always well-attended, but received no press coverage and, amazingly enough, was attended by no police officers (which was all for the best). Hundreds of people gathered in a field known as the Duck Pond. A small stream with ducks ran through it and – best of all – it had trees. Oklahomans have done a lot of reforestation since the 1960s, but back then an area with honest-to-God trees was special.

Hundreds of people, many of them students, gathered in the late afternoon, braving the blinding July heat. A sizable contingent were men in overalls and straw hats, with about three or four teeth each, who were carrying guitars and banjos. The party always started in the same way, with Woody's sister, from Gotebo,

Okla., standing up in front and making a few opening remarks. She was a country woman in a cotton house dress, her hair pulled back into a bun, and she'd have an old black purse clasped to her side. She spoke in a thick rural Okie twang: "I'm Woody's sister, and I want to thank all you folks for coming to celebrate Woody's birthday. The main thing I want you to know is Woody was a good boy, and he weren't no Communist. Now y'all have a good time!"

The men in overalls were Woody's old friends from all over the Oklahoma panhandle and adjoining parts of Arkansas. After Woody's sister spoke, they would start playing and they would play into the wee small hours of the morning – bluegrass and country so fine one would have to die and go to Hillbilly Heaven to hear anything like it. They are still the finest concerts I have ever attended. When the sun started to go down, they would go to their trucks and get jugs of moonshine, take long draws, and then hand them over to the audience, where they would start circulating from mouth to mouth. I knew what moonshine was

but, as a little country girl from Vermont, did not have the courage to try it. When the sun went down a little further, doobies would start circulating. Pot grew wild in the Oklahoma Panhandle and was an old tradition itself.

As the night wore on, the music would get louder and wilder and more improvisational, and the crowd would become less inhibited, but never to the point of any real trouble. It was all about joy - the vast Oklahoma sky with purple clouds drifting through fields of star, the night-air the temperature of bath water and, most of all, the music.

These memories came back to me when I read in the Iguana that there is going to be a celebration of Woody's 100th birthday this July 14. I look forward to it. I know the music will be wonderful –how could it not be? It would be nice, though, to have it opened by an old lady with an old black purse who would welcome the crowd and tell them, "Woody was a good boy, and he weren't no Communist" (even if he was). If Woody is up in hillbilly heaven, he would like that. 🐘

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History and the people who make it: Sonja Diaz

transcript edited by Pierce Butler

This is the ninth in a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Community organizer Sonja Diaz was interviewed by Prof. Paul Ortiz [O] on June 3, 2010.

I am a third/fourth generation Chicana. My dad's side of the family was born and raised in Southern California back to my great grandparents. My mom is sixth generation Tejana. My mother was a farm worker and my father grew up in East L.A., a construction worker with my grandpa. Both of my parents were the first in their families to go to college. My mom was active in the UFW and my father in the East L.A. Walkouts. I grew up in East L.A. in a family that was very socially conscious. Every weekend we'd go to an art event, a protest, a march. For instance, the César Chávez marches in East L.A.; protesting Prop. 187, to take away social services for undocumented people; Prop. 209 which ended affirmative action. We called it "Radio Fire activism" 'cause my brother and I would get in our red Radio Fire and our parents would drag us along. So, activism was spurred through our family: my father, being an urban planner

and advocating on behalf of urban communities of color; my mother, working in social services and for empowerment of blacks and Latinos. It just was natural at UC Santa Cruz to continue activism along racial/ethnic lines. So, definitely East Los Angeles, El Sereno, and my parents shaped who I am today. It gave me that community education that was so lacking in LAUSD public schools. They taught me in a way where I felt proud of not only being a Chicana, but also of where I grew up and of the people and community that supported me. My mom started working the fields at age five. She talked about not having water, not having bathroom breaks, not getting paid. She told me about my grandpa, who was born in Mexico and didn't have formal education, taking notes about all the hours that his compadres worked because they weren't getting paid for everything.

On my dad's end, both my grandparents were very vigilant that they went to Catholic schools. If you had more than three kids, after the third it was free, so it was a deal for them. But it was very racist and he would talk about discrimination based on skin, based on class. His counselors refused to give him a college application. And to this day, I look at that story as something—wow, you know—that's what used to happen, but it's still happening.

I'm not immigrant, nor are my parents, but that was our community, the Latino community. There was a sense of solidarity -- policies like SB 1070 [an anti-immigrant Arizona law] now, affect us directly despite the fact that we have citizenship.

In fourth grade in California we learn about missions and Native Americans, and we don't talk about genocide. It's more of a picturesque thing of the missions and daily life. I was classified gifted in second grade so that afforded me extra curriculum where we would go into subjects like oceanography or architecture, but those were very race

neutral. Nothing was critical and it stayed that way. In U.S. history there would be a paragraph about Martin Luther King or the civil rights movement, nothing about Native American genocide. I would bring these perspectives up, and the rest of the class was clueless. There was no history of Latinos, Asians, or blacks. There was no perspective that there was wrong-doing on behalf of white people or colonizers.

My great-grandpa Tony, who passed away in 2006, was very close to us. He was born in Redlands and lived in East L.A. and had a lot of odd jobs. He was a butcher, a gang member, a boxer. He would tell us about not being able to go to school past fifth grade because someone burnt down the schoolhouse, or that he was so poor he would spell poor with four o's. My favorite was that on his birthday all he'd get was an extra tortilla. He saw it all—he ended up living to about a hundred years old.

O: ... your assessment of where SB 1070 and House Bill 2281 come from [HB 2281 is an Arizona law prohibiting school curricula catering to specific ethnic groups]?

SB 1070's purpose and where it was coming from was hate. The group that created it is a right-wing neo-conservative think tank. We're in a recession and people want to know who to blame. People on the bottom get to be scapegoats, though they have no part in what's going on. The new regulation out of Arizona states that high school English teachers cannot have an accent. They're all so arbitrary, obviously targeted at communities of color, communities where English was not their first language. But there's been massive organizing that has been multi-ethnic and multi-generational. I'm a third/fourth generation Chicana, but this is an issue I care about, where I can be an ally. When we had the May Day Rally this year, the L.A. Times estimated about 45,000 people were there. But I have to tell you, it was just dense, at least 200,000 people.

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This is a four-lane street, for what, about 13 blocks down? And L.A. city blocks are long. Prop. 187 galvanized the Latino vote. But hopefully there's gonna be civic participation implications too, which would result in Latino and other immigrant communities, who are eligible to vote but are not registered, to register and to change the landscape. There's a lot of direct action. I have a lot of peers at UCLA that went in front of the ICE Detention Center downtown and stopped an ICE bus from coming in. A lot of friends went to Arizona last weekend on busses. These are working families going and protesting, that are peaceful. In LA, there was a strong presence of Asian-Pacific Islanders, but we still haven't been able to galvanize the black community.

O: Let me ask you about this attempt to quash ethnic studies. In Texas textbooks, Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, has been replaced with Phyllis Schlafly, a leader of the conservative movement.

People are not getting a clear view of history. To have different perspectives, especially perspectives that speak to one's own racial, ethnic, or urban community are important. To not have any role models in your textbook, to have counselors and educators tell you you're worthless because of the color of your skin— it just continues an ideology that you are not to go anywhere, that higher education is not for you, that low-wage, unskilled labor opportunities are for you, that prisons are for you. It's a narrow view. It seeks to put down a class of people by not legitimizing their history, not giving them access to it. So by not having people like Dolores Huerta, or Rosa Parks, which as a country, we are all very, very in tune with celebrating her legacy, is problematic. These students—black, Latino, and Asian students—are not gonna have role models. And American Indians: there's no one that looks like them that did something great. So if you see nothing but white men that are leaders, where's the room for you?

Students are taught this is unbiased

recounting of what happened. For students that go to those schools, that later become social justice advocates, to be able to build consensus amongst allies that don't believe the evidence that's out there, because they too are reading this biased wording -- it just makes things even harder.

My father was in a doctoral program at UCLA. My brother and I were about five, six years old, and we would go to school with him, and play and climb the trees. It wasn't until high school in a predominantly Latino and Asian, Pacific Islander, middle/working class neighborhood that I realized not everybody goes to college.

My high school was just a factory. They weren't concerned about students that were college going, they were concerned about students that they classified as delinquent. I didn't have any interface with my high school counselor. College was an opportunity for me, but no educators at my high school were able to support that. Our school was heavily policed. We had narks, paid security officers, on the premises all the time. There was a parole officer on campus, had his own office there.

There was a very heavy presence of army, marine, and navy recruitment. I was in high school when the war started. Three of us jumped the fence and were protesting. I was surprised by my own high school 'cause we weren't politicized. I was in sports, I played on the varsity teams where my friends were like, this war is good, terrorists need to die, racial [epithets] and stuff of that sort. So like a little fight ended up happening. I got suspended for a few days. The principal called my parents; they supported me, and she was shocked. There was a high school that had people of color, target 101 to recruit. They would sign my friends up for 4, 5, 6 years.

I went to UC Santa Cruz because of a student initiated retention program for Chicano/Latino students. Through that, I got to meet upperclassmen and underclassmen already in college, and

incoming students like myself. The discourse we had about what it meant to be a student of color, how to prepare, what Santa Cruz could offer -- these diversity outreach programs that provide a critical lens, helped me reaffirm what I wanted to do.

Santa Cruz was unique -- there isn't any fraternities, sororities, and that culture isn't there, and there isn't the sports culture, all you're left to do is to organize, which I had been used to doing. That was where all the students of color went, where the fun was, to join ethnic/racial or progressive student organizations. That allowed me to build a network, but it gave me a biased perspective, because it was so comfortable. When I later found out in upper div courses was very marginalizing. There weren't a lot of students of color and other perspectives weren't talked about. The small college system at Santa Cruz valued diversity, everybody organized and had some sort of political orientation, or a cause, and just got into it. So that was good. But it also provided a false sense of community because Santa Cruz was the least diverse, and the wealthiest UC in the system. So what I saw and the

See *ORAL HISTORY* p. 20

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comfort that I felt wasn't actually what was happening demographically.

I took African-American and Latino histories class, the junior year of my undergraduate career. I spent the first half of junior year in Washington D.C. working in Congress, where I felt like I was in a weird sociology experiment because D.C. is just so segregated. I wasn't used to that sheer racism, where it was black and white, and nobody in between. And working in Congress where it was black people pushing the shopping carts with the mail or working in the cafeteria and all the staffers were white. It was just weird. So to come back to Santa Cruz was even more interesting, because I knew that there was different levels of oppression going on, but I didn't know the extent. Some of my friends didn't believe any of the[se] things -- they were history majors -- because they went through a discipline that didn't talk about this. Learning that black people in the U.S. have zero wealth and Latinos aren't much higher. Just the sheer disparities: the intentional segregation when they started building single family homes to house war veterans, but only veterans that were white... It made me very, very interested in black politics.

After that course I went to a national program at the University of Michigan, with other students of color. Black students did not want to build coalitions with Latino students. They felt that immigration was a Latino problem, that they had to fix their own community before they could think about anybody else. To have that evidence that I learned in African American and Latino Histories, to share that, was important. Recently, I was at a meeting about SB 1070 at the UCLA Downtown Labor Center. Someone was talking about how there were no blacks at the march on May Day, and how do we get them involved, and this is a civil rights thing. I started getting itchy because we can't, as Latinos, use history and the achievements of others, where we're misappropriating it. We can't just assume

GROWRADIO.org programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community.

Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. Ben and Lea
- 1:00 p.m. Left of the Dial
- 3:00 p.m. The Chicken Loop
- 5:00 p.m. Admittedly Yours
- 2:00 p.m. Talk of the Nation
- 9:00 p.m. The Sum of Your Life

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. Florida Rules
- 11:00 a.m. Dr. Bill's Super Awesome Musical happy Time
- 3:00 p.m. Ecstasy to Frenzy
- 7:00 p.m. Maium
- 8:00 p.m. New Day Rising
- 10:00 p.m. The Residents Radio Hour

Tuesday

- 8:00 p.m. The Coffee Alternative
- 2:00 p.m. Street Nuts
- 5:00 p.m. The Barefoot Sessions
- 7:00 p.m. The Styrofoam Cup
- 8:00 p.m. The Doomed Forever Show

Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. The Narain Train
- 3:00 p.m. Uniformity Tape
- 5:00 p.m. A Brazilian Commando
- 7:00 p.m. Bigga Mixx Show
- 9:00 p.m. The Otherness
- 11:00 p.m. Radiodeo

Thursday

- 2:00 p.m. The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
- 4:00 p.m. Hope & Anchor
- 6:00 p.m. No Filler
- 8:00 p.m. Enjoy the Silence
- 10:00 p.m. Lost Sharks

Friday

- 11:00 a.m. Y2K Gunsale
- 1:00 p.m. Dimensional Meltdown
- 3:00 p.m. Swamp Boogie & Blues
- 5:00 p.m. Sunset Megamix
- 7:00 p.m. Acme Radio
- 9:00 p.m. The Bag of Tricks

Saturday

- 11:00 a.m. Jazzville
- 1:00 p.m. Lab Rat Tales
- 3:00 p.m. The New Deal
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Too Long

WUFT-FM 89.1 programming schedule

WUFT-FM offers news and public media for North Central Florida from the University of Florida with a mix of local and national programs.

Monday – Friday

- 12:00 a.m. World Cafe
- 6:00 a.m. Morning Edition
- 10:00 a.m. The Diane Rehm Show
- Noon Fresh Air
- 1:00 p.m. Tell Me More (M-W) Conner Calling (F)
- 2:00 p.m. Talk of the Nation
- 4:00 p.m. The Front Page Edition of All Things Considered
- 5:00 p.m. All Things Considered
- 6:30 p.m. Marketplace
- 7:00 p.m. PBS Newshour
- 8:00 p.m. On Point (M-Th) Viernes Social (F)
- 10:00 p.m. The Takeaway
- 11:00 p.m. Q (PRI)

Saturday

- 6:30 a.m. Latino USA
- 7:00 a.m. Only A Game
- 8:00 a.m. Weekend Edition Saturday
- 10:00 a.m. Car Talk
- 11:00 a.m. Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me
- Noon Sikorski's Attic
- 1:00 p.m. Animal Airwaves Live
- 2:00 p.m. This American Life
- 3:00 p.m. Marketplace Money
- 4:00 p.m. Travel with Rick Steeves
- 5:00 p.m. All Things Considered
- 6:00 p.m. Ask Me Another
- 7:00 p.m. Ted Radio Hour
- 8:00 p.m. Soul Circuit
- 11:00 p.m. Snap Judgment

Sunday

- 12:00 a.m. World Cafe - AAA Music
- 6:00 a.m. Fresh Air Weekend, repeat
- 7:00 a.m. Capital Report
- 7:30 a.m. Florida Frontiers
- 8:00 a.m. Weekend Edition Sunday
- 10:00 a.m. Bob Edwards Weekend
- Noon This American Life
- 1:00 p.m. Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me
- 4:00 p.m. The Thistle & Shamrock
- 5:00 p.m. All Things Considered
- 7:30 p.m. Humankind
- 8:00 p.m. Ballads & Blues
- 9:00 p.m. Ted Radio Hour
- 10:00 p.m. Radiolab
- 11:00 p.m. Conversations from World Cafe

Programming is subject to change. Please check radio stations' websites for updated schedules.

that blacks should be out there too. These relationships need to be cultivated. There's still the idea that blacks aren't immigrants, even though we see a lot of West Africans or Caribbeans coming mostly to the East Coast, but some to L.A. and the Bay Area. And also for black Americans that have been here for generations to be included in a movement fighting for civil rights, although it may be something that they don't have a direct connection to, they could still get down with it. There's a lot of trust that needs to be built. I am more hopeful now, in terms of coalition building. Leaders, city-elected officials, and also researchers, need to pay more attention to this. A lot of the literature out there is about the tensions that exist, or ways a single ethnic community organizes itself, instead of what's going on between groups. One example of what would be good to analyze between blacks and Latinos is this movement for green jobs. The propensity for those blue collar jobs to be unionized and come back to black communities, but to also incorporate Latino workers that are newly arrived or have been here for generations, like myself. We're see-

ing coalitions, like the Apollo Alliance in Los Angeles, that has a lot of different organizations, some racial/ethnic based, working together to make the pie bigger, and then to use the pie in an equitable manner. Job creation would definitely be something to watch over the next few years.

An audio podcast of this interview will be made available, along with many others, at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/feature-podcasts.htm. The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather preserve and promote history for future generations. Donate online at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html or make checks to the University of Florida, specified for SPOHP, and mail to PO Box 115215, Gainesville, FL 32611. 🐾

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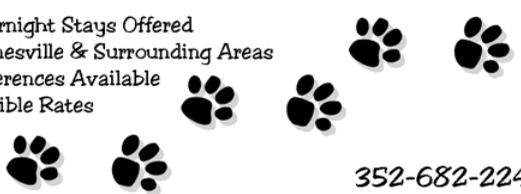


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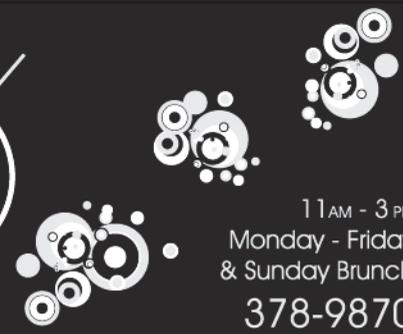
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EMANCIPATION from p. 24

the destruction of slavery in that land. All Europe now frowns upon Spain, because of her attitude toward human bondage. We must take our place on the broad platform of universal human rights, and plead for the brotherhood of the entire human race.”

Tragically, Rev. Garnett’s call for the recognition of universal human rights fell upon deaf ears in his own country. As one-party rule swept the South, forced labor reemerged. Convicts, primarily African American men, were traded as commodities to farmers and corporations to work in the coal mines of Birmingham, the cotton fields of Georgia, and the turpentine camps of Florida. The relationship between crime and punishment was broken, and cash-starved municipalities viewed the conviction of black people as a source of revenue. J.C. Powell, a white prison captain dubbed Florida “The American Gulag,” and PBS’s recent documentary “Slavery by Another Name” reveals that millions of African American men were held in chattel bondage long after the end of the Civil War.

Courageous voices spoke against the insidious new slavery. Foremost among these was Florida’s Stetson Kennedy. In 1952, Kennedy risked life and limb to gather testimony about slavery in the South, and he presented this evidence before the United Nations Commission on Forced Labor in Geneva.

Modern-day slavery continues to exist in Florida. Barry Estabrook notes, in his recently published book Tomatoland, that, “In the last fifteen years, Florida law enforcement officials have freed more than one thousand men and women who have been held and forced to work against their will in the fields of Florida, and that represents only the tip of the iceberg. Most instances of slavery go unreported.”

There is a solution to these egregious violations of human rights in our state. A Florida-based organization, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, recently earned the Anti-Slavery Award from the Anti-Slavery International of London for its efforts to expose and end slavery in Florida agriculture. Major corporations including Taco Bell,

and purchasers of Florida produce together to ensure that agricultural workers are treated fairly and paid regularly for their labor.

Unfortunately, a major purchaser of Florida tomatoes, Publix Super Markets, continues to ignore the pleas of religious leaders and Florida consumers to join the growing list of firms that have pledged to abolish exploitation and slavery in our fields. By claiming that it bears no responsibility for the conditions of the men and women who pick the crops that help generate enormous profits, Publix ignores the wishes of its own customers who have been petitioning the company on this matter for more than two years.

On this newest Emancipation Day we should pledge to take up Rev. Henry Garnett’s call to fight for universal human rights and for the brotherhood of the entire human race regardless of occupation, racial background or nationality.

Contact Publix Supermarkets www.publix.com/contact/SendUsAMessage. do and urge them to sit down with at the negotiating table with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. It is up to us to honor the spirit of May 20 in Florida, in the United States and in the world generally. 🐾

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Gainesville  **Chapter 14**



You can't get much more non-corporate than yard sales and flea markets. There is a special irony that just a dozen blocks north of the eastside Super Walmart the new, large flea market has opened – Den & Deb's.

It's worth a wander, and there's lots of stuff. It's got a sort of farmer's market feel, with individual vendors struggling to make it, some of whom are small business owners put out of business by the economy and/or undercut by big corporate chains, left stuck with their old inventory.

It's bigger than it looks and part of the great East Gainesville small business boom. Good luck to Dos Mamas in the old Kick-in' Devil spot, and WELCOME BACK TO SATCHEL'S and the great music at Lightnin' Salvage. 🐾

Photos by Joe Courter.



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Working for a New Emancipation Day in Florida

By Paul Ortiz

On May 20, 1865, United States General Edward M. McCook gave the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in the state of Florida. It was a moment that African Americans had fought for. During the Civil War, over 1,000 black Floridians had joined nearly a quarter of a million African Americans across the nation to serve in the Union Army and Navy. Many more worked as scouts, spies and laborers in a struggle to end the long nightmare of slavery. Henceforth, black Floridians observed May 20 as a sacred day of remembrance of the Peculiar Institution's many victims, and in hope that the nation would nevermore place property rights above human rights.

African Americans understood, however, that slavery continued to exist in our

hemisphere. In the decades after May 20, 1865, black churches and conventions organized to protest slavery in Latin America, particularly in Brazil and Cuba. One mass meeting, chaired by the great abolitionist Henry Highland Garnett at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, led to the formation of the American Foreign Anti-Slavery Society in 1877.

Rev. Garnett pledged his organization's support to the anti-colonial struggle being waged in Cuba, and stated, "If the veteran abolitionists of the United States had not mustered themselves out of service, I believe that there would not now have been a single slave in the Island of Cuba. We sympathize with the patriots of Cuba, not simply because they are republicans, but because their triumph will be

See *EMANCIPATION* p. 22



Save UF, Spend the Reserves

Hundreds of students and faculty members gather on April 25 to demand that administration spend the reserves instead of cutting vital departments to balance this year's budget shortfall. In the end, through rallies, letters to the editor, faculty and student participation in faculty senate forums and board of trustee meetings, and through direct meetings with administration, the Save UF campaign was able not only to change the public perception and conversation surrounding the cuts, but we also feel we were a huge reason why the president and administration considered using some of the reserves to make up for the budget shortfall. Photo by Diana Moreno. 🐾

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